

From: Paul Gunter <paul@beyondnuclear.org>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 5:30 PM
To: Szabo, Aaron
Subject: Follow-up to September 19, 2013 GE Mark I and Mark II Filter Strategy Mtg

Hello Mr. Szabo,

In follow up to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) & industry public meeting that I attended on the GE Boiling Water Reactor Mark I and Mark II containment hardened vent filtration strategy, I am providing the following links to the documents that I referenced during the meeting.

I raised several questions with regard to an industry response to the NRC question during the meeting with regard to the projected cost estimate for the severe accident capable containment hardened vent with a high capacity filtration system. Industry representatives responded that at present they could not provide the agency with an estimated cost.

In response, I am providing the following link to the June 2013 the Areva & Hitachi GE joint press release announcing their plan to begin the installation of a severe accident capable hardened containment vent with high capacity filter on Japanese GE BWR units.

http://www.beyondnuclear.org/storage/mark-1-campaign/schematics-pictures/areva_ge_pr_06042013_filtered-hardened-vent.pdf

I am additional providing a link to the schematic of the Japan severe accident capable hardened containment vent with the high capacity radiation filtration system that has already commenced to the installation stage in several Japan GE BWRs.

http://www.beyondnuclear.org/storage/mark-1-campaign/schematics-pictures/Shimane_filteredvent_areva_2013.jpg

Japan sources identify that the Chubu Electric Power Company started the installation of this hardened and filtered vent system in May 2013 on the BWR units at the Shimane nuclear power station for completion in 2014. Additionally, the Hokuriku Electric Power Company started the installation of the same system in June 2013 for two BWR units at Shika nuclear power station for completion in 2015.

It is our understanding that Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority prompted this activity by order as part of their restart protocol for Japanese BWRs.

The Japanese regulatory agency actions appear to implement the NRC staff's Option 3 as recommended in SECY 2012-0157 but declined by notation vote of the NRC Commissioners.

We understand that the NRC is in communication through a joint task force with the Japan Nuclear Regulation Authority on the implications of the Fukushima Daiichi-related actions for Japanese reactors, including the GE BWRs. It is our further understanding that the Boiling Water Reactor Owner Group that is working on the Fukushima Daiichi containment actions for US BWR units includes representatives from both United States and Japanese BWR operating companies. Presumably, this includes the Hitachi GE activity and the Chubu and Hokuikuy electric utilities for the Japanese reactors. Yet by all appearances from the September 19 meeting, there is no sharing of information related to the Areva & Hitachi GE hardened containment vent on the current installation, at least with the NRC.

We are concerned by this apparent lack of communication and collaboration from one set of actions in Japan to another set of public safety related actions here in the United States for the identical BWR technology. We are further concerned by the significant disparity of timelines established by the two regulatory agencies where Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority issued prompt orders for the installation of severe accident capable hardened containment vents with high capacity radiation filters for completion in Japanese GE Mark I BWRs as early as 2014 and 2015 as contrasted by June 2018 and June 2019 completion dates for severe accident capable hardened containment vents without radiation filters for US BWRs.

Can you please explain why there is no apparent communication and collaboration between NRC and NRA and the Japanese/United States nuclear power companies on the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group on such fundamental issues as design parameters and cost for the identical technology?

Can you also tell me if the transcript of the September 19, 2013 meeting will be placed in the public domain of the NRC Agency-wide Document Access Management System (ADAMS).?

Thanks,

Paul